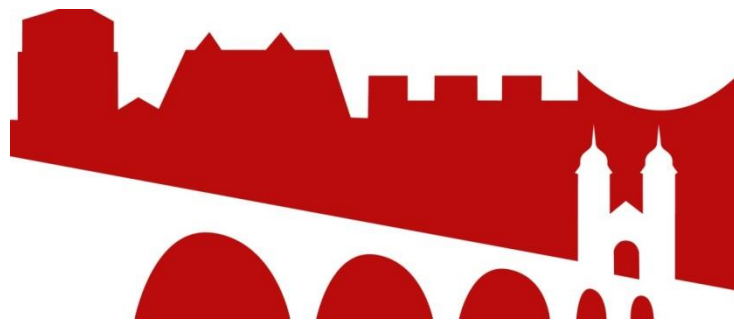


# American Junior Year

2017-18

AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR  
sample courses



[www.heidelberg.edu/ajy](http://www.heidelberg.edu/ajy)



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## AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR (includes Preliminary Course, Grammar and Writing as well as German Studies Courses)

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**Course: Aspects of Society and Culture in Contemporary Germany**

AJY J11

**Instructor:** AJY Faculty

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** After arrival in Heidelberg, students participate in a 4-week preliminary course at the AJY Study Center. The course includes one week of orientation followed by three weeks of intensive language instruction. For the language course component the students will be placed according to their level of German (intermediate, advanced intermediate, advanced).

The course consists of three parts:

1. Sixty (60) hours of intensive practice in listening and reading comprehension, advanced German grammar and vocabulary, text analysis and text production, preparing the students for the University's German Language Proficiency Examination.
2. The course is supplemented by a program of visits / excursions to various institutions and sites in and around Heidelberg.
3. Since all AJY students are required to participate in a non-academic activity (such as a sports club, choir, volunteer work) on a weekly basis during the university semester, students begin planning for their individual activity during the preliminary course. Students are required to turn in an essay (250 words, in German) about their non-academic activity (NAT), or they may write a blog/facebook entry (in English). All students must provide photos showing them doing their non-academic activity. Students doing a special NAT may present at the AJY Colloquium Day in early December.
4. Three semester credits are awarded upon successful completion of all course requirements.

**Readings:** Dreyer, Hilke, and Richard Schmitt. Lehr- Und Übungsbuch der Deutschen Grammatik: Die Gelbe Aktuell. Ismaning: Hueber, 2009.

Hall, Karin, and Barbara Scheiner. Übungsgrammatik Für Die Oberstufe (Niveau B2-C2): Deutsch Als Fremdsprache. Ismaning: Hueber, 2014.

Luscher, Renate: Landeskunde Deutschland. Von der Wende bis heute (Niveau B2-C2): Verlag für Deutsch, 2013.

**Basis of grade:** Regular class attendance and active participation; daily homework assignments; NAT work; participation in the university language proficiency exam at the end of course. Observance of the German language rule (three strikes/ auf Deutsch: Drei-Striche-System)

**Course: Text Comprehension and Text Production: Topics in German & European Economic Geography**

AJY J50p

**Instructor:** Aue

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** This course explores the following topics:

- Globalization
- Migration and Economics
- Ecology and Environment (sustainability, ecological footprint, environmental policy)
- The European Union (history, goals, structure, and treaties)
- Cartography (scale and topographic maps)

- Methodology

**Readings:** Landeskunde Deutschland 2016, Renate Luscher, Verlag für Deutsch.  
Diercke Weltatlas 2015, Westermann Schulbuch Verlag.  
Further readings will be distributed in class.

**Basis of grade:** Regular attendance, active participation, short oral presentations, final written exam.  
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**Course: German Conversation in Small Groups**

**AJY** J50m

**Instructor:** Lengiewicz

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** This course seeks to improve the language competence of advanced students on the basis of weekly conversation sessions. In a setting of 3-5 students only, we will discuss topics in German culture and society.

Students are encouraged to speak in a loud voice, to watch their body language by speaking. Some role playing.

Weekly topics are handed out in advance. After each class, students create a list of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (glossary).

Possible topics:

What is generosity?

Prohibition

What does it mean to have a sense of humor?

How honest can we afford to be in our daily life?

Can people from different generations actually communicate with each other?

Is advertising effective?

Is it possible to free ourselves from bad habits?

Is it possible to get someone to change his or her mind?

Why are people capable of being cruel?

Current issues, for example 'Brexit', or 'Refugees'.

**Readings:** Weekly handouts.

**Basis of grade:** Weekly written assignments of 2 pages each. Final oral exam.

**Course: AJY Internships**

**AJY** J370

**Instructor:** Resident Director, On-Site Supervisor

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 8

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** For individual internship descriptions please see the AJY website.

**Readings:** Internship-related.

**Basis of grade:** Evaluation of supervisor, presentation at the AJY internship and research colloquium, portfolio.

**Course: Independent Study, Capstone Research Project**

**AJY** J490

**Instructor:** Resident Director, On-Site Supervisor

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 1

**Credits:** 1

**Description:** Student is involved in independent study or capstone research project under the supervision of the Resident Director, and in consultation with the student's advisor.

**Readings:** To be compiled by the student.

**Basis of grade:** Outline of project, bibliography, abstract, presentation at the AJY internship and research colloquium.

**Course: Insights into Germany: Contemporary German Novels**

**AJY J50t**

**Instructor:** Dr. Styles Sass

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** The themes of the five popular novels we will read are:

- Life in the GDR
- Migrant workers and their influence on Germany
- Wanderlust
- New developments
- New approaches to National Socialism
- Youth rebellion in the provinces

All novels take place in different regions of Germany, such as former East Germany, the Ruhr Region, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

**Readings:** Die neuen Leiden des jungen W., Ulrich Plenzdorf (Suhrkamp BasisBibliothek, 7. Auflage, 2013).

Milch und Kohle, Ralf Rothmann (Suhrkamp, 1. Auflage 2007).

Tschick, Wolfgang Herrndorf (Rowohlt Taschenbuch, 2016).

Er ist wieder da, Timur Vermes (Bastei Lübbe Taschenbuch, 1. Auflage, 2014).

Auerhaus, Bov Bjerg (Aufbau Taschenbuch, 3. Auflage, 2017).

**Basis of grade:** Regular and active participation, short presentation, oral final exam.